

THE ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK'S (ADB) PROJECT SCREENING AND CATEGORIZATION

Source: Asian Development Bank, "Draft Safeguard Policy Statement," in *Safeguard Policy Statement*, p. 19, 2009, <https://www.adb.org/sites/default/files/institutional-document/32056/safeguard-policy-statement-june2009.pdf>.

Screening and Categorization. ADB will carry out project screening and categorization at the earliest stage of project preparation when sufficient information is available for this purpose. Screening and categorization is undertaken to (i) reflect the significance of potential impacts or risks that a project might present; (ii) identify the level of assessment and institutional resources required for the safeguard measures; and (iii) determine disclosure requirements.

Environment Categorization. ADB uses a classification system to reflect the significance of a project's potential environmental impacts. A project's category is determined by the category of its most environmentally sensitive component, including direct, indirect, cumulative, and induced impacts in the project's area of influence. Each proposed project is scrutinized as to its type, location, scale, and sensitivity and the magnitude of its potential environmental impacts. Projects are assigned to one of the following four categories:

- (i) **Category A.** A proposed project is classified as category A if it is likely to have significant adverse environmental impacts that are irreversible, diverse, or unprecedented. These impacts may affect an area larger than the sites or facilities subject to physical works. An environmental impact assessment is required.
- (ii) **Category B.** A proposed project is classified as category B if its potential adverse environmental impacts are less adverse than those of category A projects. These impacts are site-specific, few if any of them are irreversible, and in most cases mitigation measures can be designed more readily than for category A projects. An initial environmental examination is required.
- (iii) **Category C.** A proposed project is classified as category C if it is likely to have minimal or no adverse environmental impacts. No environmental assessment is required although environmental implications need to be reviewed.
- (iv) **Category FI.** A proposed project is classified as category FI if it involves investment of ADB funds to FIs...

Involuntary Resettlement. ADB will screen all projects to determine whether or not they involve involuntary resettlement. For a project involving involuntary resettlement, a resettlement plan will be prepared that is commensurate with the extent and degree of the impacts. The degree of impacts shall be determined by (i) the scope of physical and economic displacement, and (ii) the vulnerability of the affected persons...

Indigenous Peoples. ADB will screen all projects to determine whether or not they have potential impacts on Indigenous Peoples. For projects with impacts on Indigenous Peoples, an Indigenous Peoples plan will be prepared. The plan's level of detail and comprehensiveness will be commensurate with the degree of impacts. The degree of impacts is determined by evaluating (i) the magnitude of the impact on Indigenous Peoples' customary rights of use and access to land and natural resources; socioeconomic status; cultural and communal integrity; health, education,

livelihood systems, and social security status; or indigenous knowledge; and (ii) the vulnerability of the affected Indigenous Peoples.